

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

TOP SECRET

ORIG :
 UNIT :
 EXT :
 DATE : 8 January 1962

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| ROUTING | | 25X1 |
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| 2 | 5 | |
| 3 | 6 | |

TO :
 FROM: DIRECTOR
 CONF: DPD (1-2-3-4-
 INFO :

JAN 1 1962

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| ED | IX | PRIORITY | INITIALS |
| ROUTINE | | OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE | |

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TOR: 1932Z 8 JAN 1962

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1. INFORMAL POSITION, REFLECTING AT LEAST VIEWS OF
 CONCERNING SA-3 AS FOLLOWS:

2. NIE 11-4-61 STATES THAT SOVIETS HAVE SURFACE-TO-AIR MISSILE SYSTEM (SA-3) WHICH WE BELIEVE IS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO ENGAGE TARGETS AT VERY LOW ALTITUDES. THIS STATEMENT IS BASED ON PHOTOGRAPHY OF TWO FOUR-POSITION SITES AT KAPUSTIN YAR SAM TEST RANGE FACILITIES. IT HAS NOT BEEN TECHNICALLY CONFIRMED THAT THIS SYSTEM IS A LOW ALTITUDE SYSTEM AS NO EQUIPMENT COULD POSITIVELY BE IDENTIFIED. HOWEVER, THE LOW ALTITUDE FUNCTION APPEARS REASONABLE BECAUSE (A) THERE IS A WESTERN BOMBER THREAT BELOW THE PRESENTLY ESTIMATED MINIMUM ALTITUDE CAPABILITY OF THE SA-2, AND (B) THE TECHNICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE ITSELF DO NOT APPEAR TO NEGATE THIS FUNCTION.

3. NPIC HAS CALLED THESE SITES SA-3 BECAUSE THEY RESEMBLE ONE OF THE KAPUSTIN YAR FOUR-LAUNCHER SITES. AIR FORCE TDI HAS TARGETED THESE SITES SA-3 AND DESCRIBED THEM AS LOW-LEVEL DEFENSE MISSILE SITES ON BASIS OF THE ESTIMATE WITHOUT ANY QUALIFYING REMARKS.

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| | ROUTINE | OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE | INITIALS |

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TO INFO CITE

4. OUR INTERPRETATION OF THE DESIGNATION SA-3 IS A THIRD GENERATION SAM SYSTEM WITH THE MOST LIKELY FUNCTION BEING LOW-ALTITUDE DEFENSE.

END OF MESSAGE

* REFERS TO [REDACTED] REQUEST FOR RATIONALE WHICH LED WASHINGTON TO CLASSIFY SA-3 SITES AS SUCH.

25X1

| | |
|-----|---------------|
| 1 | REBER: ACTION |
| 2 | BISSELL |
| 3 | [REDACTED] |
| 4 | TIDWELL |
| ✓ 5 | LUNDANL |
| 6 | [REDACTED] |
| 7 | [REDACTED] |
| 8 | [REDACTED] |

25X1

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TCO/CIA: Mr. Reber
TCO/DDP: [REDACTED]

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